



## **What's New – March 2006**

### **Significant Documents**

[Action Today, a Foundation for Tomorrow: The President's Emergency Plan For Aids Relief.](#)  
[U.S. Global AIDS Coordinator; 2nd Annual Report to Congress] February 2006.  
[pdf format, 166 pages]

[Agenda for Climate Action.](#)  
[Pew Center on Global Climate Change Report] February 2006.  
[pdf format, 24 pages]

[Back to the Future for African Infrastructure? Why State-Ownership Is No More Promising the Second Time Around.](#)  
[Center for Global Development, Working Paper #84] February 2006.  
[pdf format, 36 pages]

[Credit Markets, Creditors Rights and Economic Development.](#)  
[The Brookings Institution, John M. Olin Law & Economics Working Paper No. 281] February 2006.  
[pdf format, 36 pages]

[Data Mining and Homeland Security: An Overview.](#)  
[CRS Report for Congress, RL31798] Update January 27, 2006.  
[pdf format, 27 pages]

[The Diversity of Muslims in the United States: Views as Americans.](#)  
[United States Institute of Peace, Special Report 159] February 2006.  
[pdf format, 20 pages]

[The Doha Round after Hong Kong.](#)  
[Institute for International Economics, Policy Brief #PB06-2] February 2006.  
[pdf format, 9 pages]

[Energy Prices and the Economy.](#)  
[United States Congress, Joint Economic Committee Research] January 2006.  
[pdf format, 20 pages]

[How Not to Make Peace: "Conflict Syndrome" and the Demise of the Oslo Accords.](#)  
[United States Institute of Peace, Peaceworks No. 57] March 2006.  
[pdf format, 56 pages]

[A New Era at the Inter-American Development Bank: Six Recommendations For the New President.](#)  
[Center for Global Development Report] January 2006.  
[pdf format, 23 pages]

[Poverty Reduction and Growth: Virtuous And Vicious Circles.](#)  
[The World Bank, Latin American and Caribbean Region publication] Web-posted February 2006.  
Guillermo E. Perry, et. al. [pdf format, 238 pages]

[Russia's Wrong Direction: What the United States Can and Should Do.](#)

[Independent Task Force Report; Sponsored by the Council on Foreign Relations] March 2006.

[pdf format, 94 pages]

## ARTICLES

### DEMOCRACY AND HUMAN RIGHTS

#### [DECISION-MAKING TRENDS OF THE REHNQUIST COURT ERA: CIVIL RIGHTS AND CIVIL LIBERTIES](#)

Smith, Christopher E.; Hensley, Thomas R.

Judicature Vol. 89, No. 3, November/December 2005, pp. 161-169

Summary: In this article outlining the legacy of late Supreme Court Chief Justice William Rehnquist, the authors compare the decision-making trends of the Rehnquist court to that of the Burger and Warren courts. The authors argue that despite Rehnquist's conservative orientation, an empirical study of Supreme Court rulings on civil rights and civil liberties demonstrates that during his tenure as chief justice, the court upheld several major liberal tenets. For example, although the court appears to be more conservative on issues such as the scope of warrant requirements in criminal cases, the court never actually overruled the Fourth Amendment protections from previous, more liberal courts. According to the authors, "The Rehnquist court did not overturn [certain] major liberal precedents...[and] the Rehnquist Court justices recognized Fourth Amendment limitations on warrantless searches especially in regard to a person's private dwelling." The authors use tables and graphs to provide a snapshot of the Warren, Burger and Rehnquist courts' rulings on major issues, as well as an analysis on individual Rehnquist court justices' voting patterns.

#### [LESSONS OF ROCKY FLATS](#)

Dreyer, Evan

State Legislatures vol. 31, no. 9, October/November 2005, pp. 12-17

Summary: The nuclear weapons complex at Rocky Flats in Colorado was once one of the dirtiest EPA "Superfund" environmental cleanup sites. Opened in 1951, plutonium triggers for some 70,000 nuclear warheads were produced there. However, in June 1989, tipped off to illegal dumping, federal agents raided the facility, closing down production. The site had structures so radioactive that instruments went "off the scales", and contained one building labeled "the most dangerous in America." The author notes that there was a great deal of local distrust of the U.S. Department of Energy. After several years of inaction, the Colorado state governor's office took the lead in bringing everyone to the negotiating table, drawing up a Rocky Flats Cleanup Agreement, and assigning specific responsibilities. Bipartisan support by state and national lawmakers was crucial in providing the funding for the cleanup effort. Despite inherent problems in such a difficult environmental reclamation project, it was completed in ten years, and has been hailed as a major success story in federal-state-local cooperation.

#### [NEW FIGHT FOR VOTING RIGHTS](#)

Gibeaut, John

ABA Journal Vol. 92, January 2006, pp. 42-48

Summary: The Voting Rights Act of 1965 is up for renewal and is expected to receive bipartisan support in Congress. However, it is the U.S. Supreme Court which will ultimately decide the future of the act, which appears less than certain, Gibeaut notes, as some states want to do away with the act's strict mandates. Under the Voting Rights Act, minority participation has increased but, although there is now little overt racism, civil rights leaders say that discrimination remains pervasive. In the article, Gibeaut chronicles the events that led up to the creation of the Voting Rights Act. Gibeaut notes that the Census Bureau predicts that the percentage of whites will drop

to 50 percent of the nation's population by 2050, making the U.S. a truly multiracial society. As the Act's critics become more vocal, its supporters are grappling with whether it is still needed. Gibeaut writes that "the hope is that this act is going to be so successful that it no longer will be needed."

### **TRIBAL RELATIONS: HOW AMERICANS REALLY SORT OUT ON CULTURAL AND RELIGIOUS ISSUES--AND WHAT IT MEANS FOR OUR POLITICS**

Waldman, Steven; Green, John C.

Atlantic Monthly Vol. 297, No. 1, January/February 2006, pp. 136-142

Summary: In analyzing the impact of religion and values on American politics, the authors move away from the simplistic "right versus left" stereotype, and categorize the U.S. public into what they call "the twelve tribes". On the Republican side are the Religious right (12.6 percent of the electorate), Heartland culture warriors (11.4 percent), and Moderate evangelicals (10.8); on the Democratic side are the Religious left (12.6), Spiritual but not religious (5.3), Black Protestants (9.6), Jews and Muslims and Others (1.9 and 2.7 respectively), and non-religious or Seculars (10.7); and the "Swing Tribes" are White-bread Protestants (8.1), Convertible Catholics (7), and Latino Christians. As the names suggest, the beliefs and attitudes of the "twelve tribes" are diverse and complex, especially in the "moral middle," which is comprised of the "swing tribes" and a few of the tribes within each party's base." The authors note that the size of the "moral middle" limits how much public policy can change after an election, but that cultural conflict will be a continual part of American politics for the foreseeable future.

### **ECONOMIC SECURITY AND TRADE**

#### **CRUCIBLE FOR PEACE: HERBERT HOOVER, MODERNIZATION, AND ECONOMIC GROWTH IN LATIN AMERICA**

Walker, William O.

Diplomatic History vol. 30, no. 1, January, 2006, pp. 83-117

Summary: In early 1929, Senator William E. Borah (R-Idaho), chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, wrote to the U.S. ambassador in Chile, William S. Culbertson, that "There is no region of the world, it seems to me, in which we should have a keener interest, both from the standpoint of politics and trade, than in South and Central America." This was an attempt by Borah to promote his willingness to work with the incoming Hoover administration to revitalize Latin American policy but these efforts were undercut by the Great Depression, Walker says. President Hoover tried to use the economic relationship between the United States and Latin America in the public and private realms to promote peace after World War I. However, Walker notes, Hoover failed to achieve this coveted objective for several reasons: acceptance of a "natural" division of labor globally, a nearly inflexible trade policy, the shortsightedness of the North American financial community, and the fluid state of modernity in the United States. Hoover and his associates tried to export American-style modernization to Latin America but modernization, as practiced in the Hoover era, was a flawed response to complex international issues.

### **POVERTY AND GLOBALIZATION**

Singham, Shanker; Hrinak, Donna

National Interest No. 82, Winter 2005/06, pp. 117-122

Summary: Poverty, often cast as the fault of multinational corporations or "imperialist" governments, is the most virulent killer on the planet, say the authors. Trade "liberalization" has not lived up to its promise to relieve poverty, primarily because the liberalization reforms have not been accompanied by the domestic economic reforms required to create a true competitive market, they explain. Additionally, trade negotiations are conducted with a strong bias toward producers rather than consumers. As long as producers' interests continue to trump those of consumers and elites protect their own interests, say the authors, true competition cannot take place and poverty will continue to lead its victims toward the false promises of radical leaders. They propose that trade negotiators should adopt a stronger stance in favor of consumer welfare

by finding ways to link the level of competition in markets to the liberalization processes. For example, they note, trade agreements that reward internal reforms which support competitive markets will lead to the economic growth that alleviates poverty and desperation.

### **REMITTANCES: A LIFELINE FOR DEVELOPMENT**

Ratha, Dilip

Finance & Development Vol. 42, No. 4, December 2005, pp. 42-43

Summary: Ratha, a Senior Economist in the World Bank's Development Prospects Group, says remittances play an important role in development, but it is hard to estimate the exact size of flows because many transfers take place through unofficial channels. He notes that remittance flows target specific needs of the recipients and thus tend to reduce poverty. Remittances are more stable than capital flows and are counter-cyclical, increasing during economic downturns or after natural disasters when private capital flows typically decrease. However, he adds, there are potential costs to reliance on remittances such as loss of highly skilled workers, labor shortages, appreciation of the real exchange rate (if remittances are large), or breeding dependency by undercutting the recipient's incentives to work. Transaction costs need to be lowered in order to increase the positive impacts of remittances, he writes; this can be accomplished through improved access to banking and competitive services rather than targeted government incentives.

## **GLOBAL ISSUES / INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION**

### **GREEN DAWN: IN CHINA, SUSTAINABLE CITIES RISE BY FIAT**

Hvistendahl, Mara

Harper's Magazine vol. 312, no. 1869, February 2006, pp. 52-53

Summary: In the next few years China will build Tangye New Town, a seven-square mile "eco-effective" environmental urban design city that will house 180,000 people and support a million more. China has granted Western architects opportunity to bring their most avant-garde visions for a sustainable future. The five- and seven-story apartments will house villagers who were relocated during the demolition process as well as new residents. Tangye New Town will draw energy from the sun, turn waste into fuel and return its water to the ground through natural drainage and irrigation. Bike paths will promote emissions-free transportation and rooftop gardens will insulate buildings and produce oxygen. Even the lower-income areas will be a short walk away from public fields. Although other eco-developments around the world have had trouble attracting residents, the Chinese government will use its imposing will to ensure that its eco-cities are filled. Final approval on Tangye has not been granted yet, however, the central road has been paved and reports state that a first phase of construction will be completed by July.

### **MAKING A LITTLE PROGRESS**

Cunningham, Aimee

Science News Vol. 168, No. 18, October 29, 2005, pp. 280-281

Summary: Since the 1950s, the mortality rate for cancer, unlike that for heart disease and stroke, has defied efforts to reduce it. The National Cancer Institute, in a new, five-year initiative, has dedicated over USD 144 million to investigate how nanotechnology can change that through diagnosis and treatment. Early work has raised the possibility that nanotechnology, carrying antibodies that bind to a specific type of cancer cell, or a cancer drug or a tumor-fighting gene, will be able to detect and treat cancer, with less damage to non-cancerous cells and with fewer side effects. Says one researcher, "If you can kill cancer cells without affecting normal cells, that is the Holy Grail." Science may not be able to prevent cancer from starting, but "turning cancer into a chronic, manageable disease is a realistic expectation in the next decade."

## **THE NEW WORLD OF GLOBAL HEALTH**

Cohen, Jon

Science vol. 311, no. 5758, January 13, 2006, pp. 162-167

Summary: Support and funding for improving public health in developing countries has increased

sharply in recent years with the realization that improved health of a population can be a key factor in speeding development and sustainability of a nation as a whole. As increasing sums are being earmarked for public health campaigns and more governments and organizations are taking part, questions arise about the effectiveness and methods of the efforts. "There's no architecture of global health," said one expert quoted in the article. Cohen examines the arguments surrounding the proper means for delivering aid to the developing world and the debate over how to spend assistance to achieve the greatest gains in overall health.

#### **SILENT STREAMS**

Battiata, Mary

Washington Post Magazine November 27, 2005, pp. 10-17, 24-31

Summary: Urban and suburban sprawl is threatening almost every stream in the country. Notes the author, "the problem is pavement" -- concrete and asphalt prevents rainwater from seeping into the ground, and instead funnels it to the nearest creek. In developed areas where more than 15 percent of the ground is paved, rain is diverted into local streams at a velocity and volume many times greater than they can handle. This relentless scouring washes away stream beds and banks and freshwater fauna and exposes roots, causing trees to topple over; toxic chemicals in the runoff from sewers and storm drains can cause massive wildlife kills. Battiata writes that this is not just a matter of natural beauty -- there is a growing realization that streams are vital to a healthy freshwater system, and that dying streams have dire implications for the supply of clean drinking water. In the last decade, large numbers of local watershed and stream-protection volunteer groups have sprung up around the U.S.; the article features several groups active in the suburban Washington, D.C. area.

#### **INTERNATIONAL SECURITY**

##### **GUNNING FOR THE WORLD**

Morton, David

Foreign Policy No. 152, January/February 2006, pp. 58-67

Summary: The National Rifle Association (NRA), the organization of gun owners in the U.S., is one of the most powerful and well-funded lobbying groups in the country. However, in recent years, it has become a savvy global lobby, advocating gun ownership rights at the United Nations, and assisting pro-gun groups in countries such as Australia and Brazil defeat national gun-control initiatives with slick, well-crafted messages in the local media. The author traces the rise of the NRA on the world stage to the formation of the loose international coalition of groups in the 1990s to combat the trafficking in small arms. The NRA realized that successful gun-control legislation in other countries might embolden American gun-control groups, resulting in passing similar laws in the U.S.

##### **IRAN AND AMERICA: IS RAPPROCHEMENT FINALLY POSSIBLE?**

Katz, Mark N.

Middle East Policy Journal Vol. 12, No. 4, Winter 2005

Summary: The author, a professor of government and politics at George Mason University, lectured in Iran and interviewed a wide variety of Iranian public figures. This article summarizes their views on a range of topics, including the Bush administration (they supported U.S. intervention in Afghanistan and Iraq), democratic revolutions (many fear such an upheaval in Iran), and the nuclear issue (they see the United States as unfair). Many supported a visit by the Secretary of State, along the lines of Nixon's visit to China, and several thought that increased academic and cultural exchanges would improve relations. Even after the recent "reprehensible" statements by President Ahmadinejad, Katz remains convinced that Washington and Tehran face the common threat of Sunni fundamentalism, an important incentive for Iranian-American cooperation. However, Katz does not believe that mutual recognition by both Washington and Tehran of the need for Iranian-American rapprochement is imminent; during the Cold War, it took several years for Washington and Beijing to recognize that it was possible for them to cooperate against the Soviet threat. He believes that the current face-off with Tehran "may have to get

worse before America and Iran recognize ... the necessity for rapprochement."

### **PREPARING FOR THE POST-TERRORISM ERA**

Copley, Gregory R.

Defense and Foreign Affairs Strategic Policy vol. 33, no. 9, September 2005, pp. 2-4

Summary: Now is the time for our national planners to look beyond the current age of terrorism, notes the author; because terrorism is a response to a social condition that will pass, policymakers must plan for the future. This future may not include nation-states as the primary form of sovereignty. Transnational organizations may supplant traditional nation-states, but the role of conventional forces will remain important.

### **U.S. SOCIETY AND VALUES**

#### **A VERY LIVING PAST**

Gibson, Christine

American Legacy vol. 11, no. 2, Summer 2005, pp. 34-42

Summary: Over the past several years, photographer Sarah Hoskins has been documenting African-American hamlets in the counties around Lexington, Kentucky, known as the Inner Bluegrass Region. Founded by newly-freed slaves after the Civil War, several dozen communities are believed to have once existed in this area; 29 of them remain, and many are threatened by suburban expansion around Lexington. Most are still populated with the fifth- and sixth-generation descendants of the original residents. The hamlets came about when former slaveowners gave, or sold at a low price, land to their former slaves; as recently as the early 1970s, many of them still worked on the same estates where their great-grandfathers had been slaves. Hoskins, who has taken about 11,000 pictures, notes that these villages had never before been the subject of a photographic survey, saying that "African-American history has been so neglected in this country ... and has been literally bulldozed over."

#### **VIDEO GAMES AND THE FUTURE OF LEARNING**

Williamson, David Et Al.

Phi Delta Kappan vol. 87, no. 2, October 2005, pp. 104-111

Summary: Video games are commonly looked upon as "merely entertainment," within the academic community, but corporations, the government, and the military have already recognized their value as educational tools, and schools need to catch up, say the authors, who are faculty members at the University of Wisconsin, and founding members of the Games and Professional Practice Simulations Research Group. The authors contend that video games are an important learning tool because they let people participate in virtual communities -- where learners can understand complex concepts without losing the connection between abstract ideas and the real problems they can be used to solve. Educators face the challenge of developing games that provide a learning experience that will prepare students for "meaningful activity in our postindustrial, technology-rich, real world," say the authors.

### **IP Publications**

#### **Women of Influence**

Prepared to commemorate International Women's Day, this electronic offering chronicles how 12 notable American women broke new ground, some by championing equal rights for all and others by their accomplishments in fields such as government, literature, and even in war. It consists of six mini-chapters: "Guiding Lights to a New World" (Sacagawea and Pocahontas), "The Colonial Era" (Anne Bradstreet and Anne Hutchinson), "Birth of a Nation" (Abigail Adams and Margaret Corbin), "Breaking the Chains of Slavery" (Harriet Tubman and Sojourner Truth), "A Woman's Right to Vote" (Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Susan B. Anthony), and "A Role in Government" (Jeannette Rankin and Hattie Caraway). (February 2006)

**Electronic Journals**

**The Challenges of Globalization**

An Electronic Journal of the U.S. Department of State, February 2006

**If you have more questions, please contact the IRC at Tel: 4688082**